

REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE



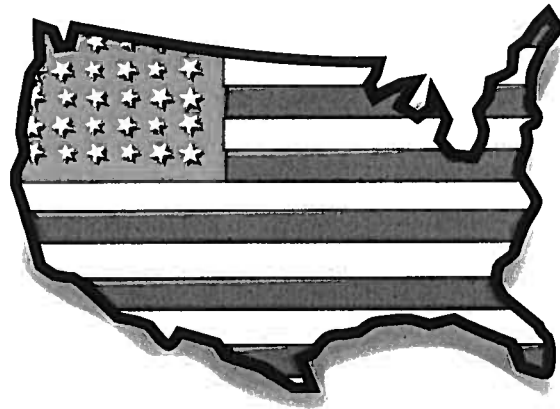
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History of the Electoral College

The Electoral College was created through a compromise when the founding fathers had differences in how the President of the United States was to be elected. The larger states desired to have the election decided by popular vote, while the smaller states desired to have the election decided by Congress. The compromise created the electoral system by establishing a series of laws that called for the state to choose how electors were selected. The number of electors for each state is set by the number of members in Congress. The electors would then meet and cast votes for the President.



How the Electoral College Works

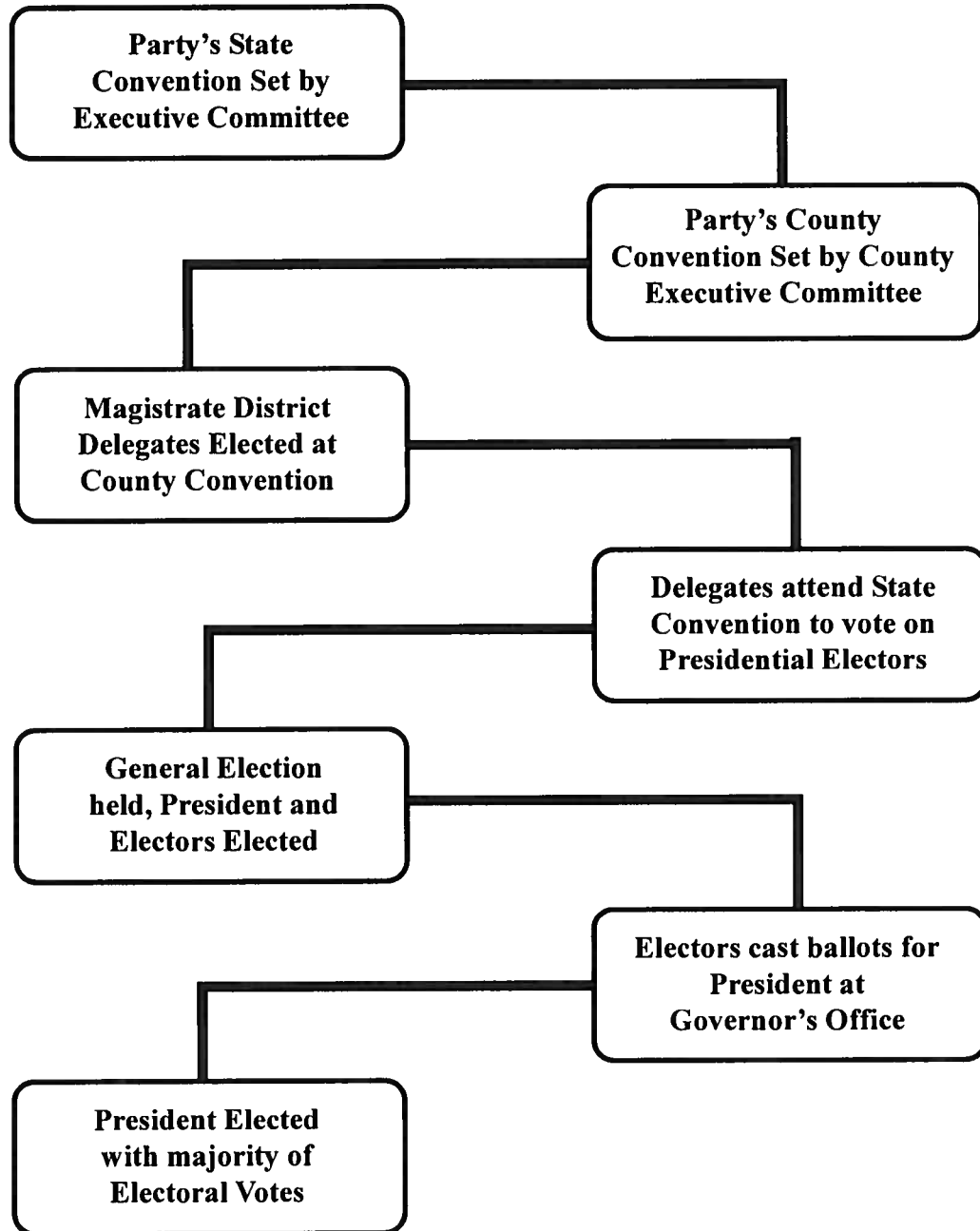
Each state is allowed electors equal to the total amount of its United States Senators and Representatives. In the case of West Virginia, the total number is five. This allows for all states to have some representation, whether large or small, in the Presidential elections. The states are charged with deciding how each elector is selected.

Once the electors are chosen, the next step is to cast ballots for the nominees for President/Vice-President. This action occurs at the various state capitols. This is done on the Monday following the second Wednesday in December of the election year. The ballots are then sealed, certified, and presented by the President of the U. S. Senate to Congress on January 6. The elections winner must receive over half of the submitted ballots. This absolute majority declares the victory for both the President and the Vice-President. On January 20, at noon, the elected President and Vice President are sworn into office.

Selecting Presidential Electors in West Virginia

1. **The party's state executive committee sets a date for the state convention**, the date must be in the June, July or August that precedes the election for the Presidential Electors.
2. **The state executive committee then must forward a resolution to the party's county executive committees that states the date, place, offices to be nominated, and the number of delegates from each county required to participate in the state convention.** This number is to be determined by the party's state executive committee and must be distributed to the counties proportionate to the number of votes cast in the state for the party's candidate for governor in the previous Presidential election.
3. **Within 10 days of receipt of the resolutions, the party's county executive committee must meet and, by resolution, apportion the delegates down to each magisterial district in the county.** This number must be proportionate to the number of votes cast in the county for the party's candidate for governor in the previous gubernatorial election. (Each magisterial district must have one vote.)
4. **The party's county executive committee then must hold a county convention at least 30 days prior to the state convention.** The county convention is a meeting of party members of each magisterial district. The members elect the number of delegates entitled to each district to attend the state convention.
5. **The party's executive committee must hold the county convention in a central and convenient location to all participants.** They are required to publicize the event with a Class II-O legal ad that includes the place, time, name of a temporary chairman to the county wide convention, and the number of delegates which each magisterial district in the county is entitled to. One notice must appear in a county wide publication not more than 15 days prior to the convention and a second ad not less than 5 days prior to the convention.
6. **Once the county delegates are selected and certified, they meet at the state convention to cast votes to select the Presidential Electors.** A majority is required for nomination in all offices.
7. **The results are then certified by the chairman and the secretary of the convention within 15 days to the Secretary of State.** The Secretary of State will then certify it to the clerk of the circuit court of each county. The names of the Presidential Electors will not appear on the regular ballot for the general election. The ballot will be set up to reflect that a vote for the parties nomination for President will be a vote for that party's electors.

Steps to the Electoral College



United States Electoral College
Allocation of Votes Based on the 2000 Census

Alabama	9	Montana	3
Alaska	3	Nebraska	5
Arizona	10	Nevada	5
Arkansas	6	New Hampshire	4
California	55	New Jersey	15
Colorado	9	New Mexico	5
Connecticut	7	New York	31
Delaware	3	North Carolina	15
District of Columbia	3	North Dakota	3
Florida	27	Ohio	20
Georgia	15	Oklahoma	7
Hawaii	4	Oregon	7
Idaho	4	Pennsylvania	21
Illinois	21	Rhode Island	4
Indiana	11	South Carolina	8
Iowa	7	South Dakota	3
Kansas	6	Tennessee	11
Kentucky	8	Texas	34
Louisiana	9	Utah	5
Maine	4	Vermont	3
Maryland	10	Virginia	13
Massachusetts	12	Washington	11
Michigan	17	West Virginia	5
Minnesota	10	Wisconsin	10
Mississippi	6	Wyoming	3
Missouri	11		